

Worksession

Agenda Item #	3
Meeting Date	September 4, 2007
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Election Update - Board of Elections
Background	<p>The City's Board of Elections was established by Ordinance 2006-36 to plan and conduct City elections, encourage voter registration, conduct voter education, review election laws and procedures and recommend amendments to improve the conduct of elections, recommend election judges for appointment, and perform other duties as assigned by Charter, ordinances and resolutions, and direction of the Council.</p> <p>Board members will be present at the worksession on September 4 to update the Council on planning for the election and to make several recommendations.</p> <p>Since their organizational meeting on June 28, the Board has accomplished or undertaken the following tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the timetable for the election, the City Charter and Code related to the election, and the information book provided to candidates. • Set a schedule of meetings through the election. • Reviewed options and recommended that the Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center serve as the single polling place for the 2007 election. • Began to develop a plan for election setup and flow of voters through the building. • Reviewed proposals for provision of election services and hosted a demonstration of election services offered by TrueBallot, Inc. • Discussed use of electronic poll books provided by the Montgomery County Board of Elections. • Arranged for voter registration volunteer training for Board members and other interested individuals. The training is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. • In conjunction with the League of Women Voters, planned to have a voter registration table at the Folk Festival on September 16. • Planned for review of election judge applications.

	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>1. After exploring alternatives to the hand counting of ballots by the judges for the November election, the Board recommends that the City negotiate a contract with TrueBallot, Inc. to provide the following services: pre-printing of ballots prior to the election, and after the close of the polls on election day, to scan, review, tally and audit the ballots.</p> <p>TrueBallot, Inc. does offer the option of ballot-on-demand instead of pre-printing ballots. Ballot-on-demand would automatically generate the correct ballot each time a voter is checked in at the polling place. The Board does not recommend adopting a ballot-on-demand system for this election.</p> <p>2. The Board recommends that the MDVoters electronic poll books be used for the upcoming election, as an alternative to the paper ward registers.</p>
Policy	<p>City Charter, Section 607 Conduct of Elections Generally</p> <p><i>(a) The Council, by ordinance, shall provide for said elections; shall designate in said ordinance a convenient polling place or places; shall appoint judges of election; shall designate the manner of holding said election; shall designate and provide the voting system to be used; and shall conduct said elections in accordance with the provisions of this section.</i></p>
Fiscal Impact	<p>\$15,000 has been included in the FY08 budget for election expenses. Total costs for the election are expected to remain within the budget. The electronic poll books will be provided free of charge by the County Board of Elections.</p>
Attachments	<p>None</p>
Recommendation	<p>Council to consider the recommendations of the Board of Elections and provide direction.</p>
Special Consideration	